

Co-ops YES! Youth Leadership Conference

Don't miss this opportunity for high school students to get involved in building leadership skills. To obtain a scholarship through Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, students must live in ECEC member homes. We have a limited number of fully paid scholarships (\$190 value) for this popular leadership conference, which takes place in Eau Claire on March 19-20. Meals and a one-night stay at The Plaza Hotel & Suites in Eau Claire are included.

Check out the conference agenda and obtain the registration form at www.ecec.com. Click on the Youth tab.

If you are interested, please print and fill in the conference registration form and return it to Mary Kay Brevig at the address below by February 17 for final approval:



Focus on Energy Helps Agribusiness

If you are looking for ways to save energy on your farm, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative members are eligible to participate in Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's statewide program for energy efficiency. Focus on Energy offers technical expertise, no-cost energy assessments and financial incentives for dairies, grain drying facilities, irrigation systems, greenhouses, and other agri-industries. Based on payback and what makes the most sense for each operation, energy advisors provide recommendations on the best ways to save energy for farms. In fact, Focus on Energy has worked with more than 3,000 agribusinesses in Wisconsin to help them save energy and money.



Financial incentives are available for installing more energy efficient equipment such as lighting, water heaters, scroll refrigeration compressors, heat recovery tanks, variable speed drives, ventilation, and greenhouse glazing. If your energy efficient project does not fall within the standard incentive guidelines, then custom incentives may also be available depending on the scope of your project.

To take obtain technical expertise or incentive information go to www.focusonenergy.com/agribusiness or call 800-762-7077. ■



Eau Claire Energy Cooperative
P.O. Box 368
Fall Creek, WI 54742

**Sign up by
February 17!**

75th Annual Meeting March 20, 2012

Florian Gardens, Eau Claire

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
Business meeting at 6:30 p.m.
Dinner to follow meeting

Watch the website and our March magazine for more information.

Electricity: What's it Worth to You?

From powering our homes and businesses to energizing entire communities, electricity is crucial to our modern lives. In fact, electricity is one of the most valuable and reliable products we use.

Take a look around. Everything is either powered by electricity or produced with the help of electric power. This includes your kitchen appliances, power tools, and electronic gadgets, including cell phones and gaming devices. Electricity is there when you need it and it's a good value. As consumers, we directly or indirectly use electricity almost all the time.

For more than 30 years, the price of the basic unit of electricity has stayed relatively low, while we are using much more electricity to

power more items each year.

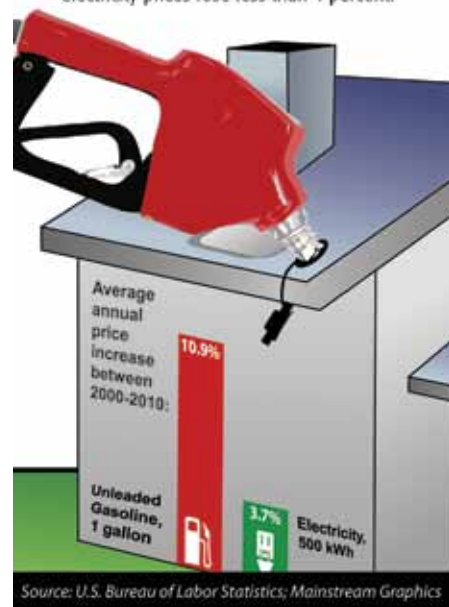
We are using electricity in new ways every year, from computers and cell phones to big-screen televisions; from electronic picture frames and DVD consoles to gaming consoles for our entertainment.

Our homes are also larger today. In the 1970s, American homes were around 1,500 square feet. Now they are more than 2,200 square feet, so we are cooling and heating much more space every day.

Electricity continues to be a bargain, especially when compared to other consumer goods. Imagine if your electric bill fluctuated as much as prices at the gas pump.—Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Mainstream Graphics ■

Filling Up on VALUE

Electricity continues to be a bargain, especially when compared to other consumer goods. Imagine if your electric bill fluctuated as much as prices at the pump. On average, over the past decade gas prices have risen almost 11 percent annually, while electricity prices rose less than 4 percent.




Incentives for 2012!

- Appliances
- Appliance Recycling
- Central Air Conditioners
- Heating Units
- Water Heaters
- Motors, Fans & Other Ag Equipment
- Commercial Equipment
- Lighting

Go to www.eec.com for more information on available incentives, how to qualify, and the incentive forms.

Check out the Focus on Energy web site at www.focusonenergy.com for even more incentives.

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

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Make Your Space Safe This Heating Season

If you're keeping special spaces warm with space heaters this winter, make sure you use common sense to make your family safe.

According to Harvard University Environmental Health & Safety group, more than 25,000 residential fires and 6,000 emergency room visits are caused by space heaters in the United States every year.

"Portable heaters must be used with caution, keeping safety a priority," says Mike Ashenfelter, electrical inspector and member of the Safe Electricity Advisory Board. "Stay warm and safe, and give space heaters space—at least 3 feet from anything that can burn—including little fingers!"

Safe Electricity offers the following precautions when using space heaters:

- Purchase only space heaters that have been safety tested and UL approved.
- Make sure the unit is equipped with an emergency tip-over shut-off feature and heating element guards.
- Before using a space heater, make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in good working condition.
- Place heater out of high-traffic areas and on a level,



hard, non-flammable floor surface—NOT on carpets, furniture, or countertops.

- Keep heaters at least 3 feet from all combustible liquids such as fuel, spray cans and paint, as well as flammable items such as draperies, blankets, and sofas.
- Never allow pets or children near an electric heater. Accidental contact could result in serious shock or burns.
- Do not overload circuits. Never use extension cords or multiple plugs with a space heater, and make sure the unit is not plugged into the same circuit as other electric appliances.

"Consider replacing older space heaters with newer, safer models," suggests Ashenfelter. "Additionally, look for features that enhance the safety of the unit including an electronic thermostat, which allows precise temperature control to avoid overheating."

Make your special spaces safe this winter! ■

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

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Cooperative**

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